

who by their steady attendance, and in some cases their active and intelligent participation in the business and exercises of the meeting, have evinced their deep interest in the Society and its prosperity.

The first of our queries by implication calls upon our members to attend our meetings and all of them.

This priority is not to be regarded as accidental. The attendance of our meetings, while it may not be the first and most important of our duties as Christians, is manifestly the first of those which attach to us distinctively as members of the Society.

The reason for this is obvious; the very existence of the Society depends upon the attendance and keeping up of these meetings, for if they are neglected and abandoned the Society inevitably falls into decay and perishes. Let those who profess their interest in the Society, and, at the same time, treat this great duty as a matter of little or no essential importance, take this solemn truth to heart.

WOMEN'S MEETING.

Appreciating the command of Scripture to "gather up" the fragments that nothing be lost," we feel desirous that our absent sisters should share with us the spiritual food which has been bountifully dispensed in our midst, and we trust the seed has fallen on good ground, that may yield its harvest in due time. In the general tenor of the answers to the queries from our subordinate meetings we feel there is cause for gratitude and encouragement; and though some deficiencies are acknowledged, we may rejoice that they are neither serious nor irreparable.

We are assured that our meetings are generally well attended; that love and unity are maintained in our midst; that our children are trained to love and honor our testimonies; that we are free from the use of spirituous liquors; that the needy are cared for, and the children educated; that our testimony in favor of a free gospel ministry is generally upborne; that none of our mem-

bers comply with military requisitions; that Friends are careful in their business transactions, prompt in performing their promises and paying their just debts, and that offenders are dealt with in the spirit of restoring. Therefore, "we will not fear" though some faint and fall by the way, for He who made a passage for His people out of Egypt has still the power to redeem them from the bondage of sin, and bring them into the glorious liberty of the truth. Let us, therefore, number our mercies, rather than dwell overmuch on our weaknesses, and gird ourselves anew for the heavenly race, the goal of which we may reach if we press forward in faith "nothing wavering." * * All humanity must be refined from its dross; like gold and silver, we must pass through the refining mills of affliction, and thus our hearts may be fit receptacles for the spirit of God. * *

The overseers were admonished to have a watchful care over the young, and advise them in regard to attending places of amusement not approved by our Society. Those who have set their faces Zionward were encouraged to keep the eye single to the light. "Hold fast to that thou hast, let no man take thy crown." * * We were advised in loving words of counsel not to go into the extravagances of the day, but to keep strictly within our means, and so strengthen the efforts of our fathers and husbands to live within the bounds of economy. A beautiful picture has been presented to our minds of a temple not made with hands, where the sound of the hammer is not heard—each stone well fitted to its place—the whole symmetrical and the foundation sure. * * A concern was felt in regard to the attendance of our mid-week meetings. By accomplishing the duty that lies nearest to us we are strengthened in life's work, for our Heavenly Father is pleased to hold His children in close communion with Himself; the quiet hour with the mind settled on the Divine Power prepares us for the cares of the coming day. Why should we go